

5.7 Interpreting Graphs of Linear Functions



LESSON FOCUS

Use intercepts, rate of change, domain, and range to describe the graph of a linear function.

Make Connections

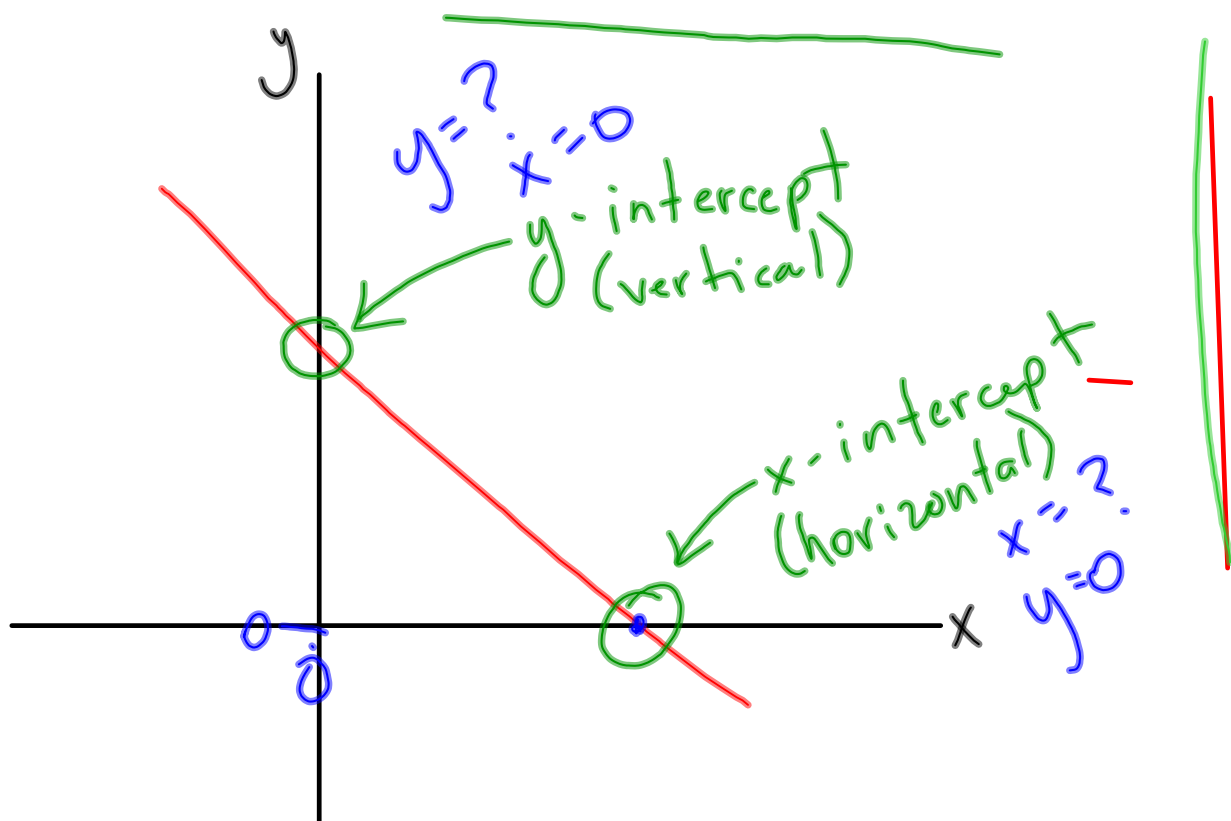
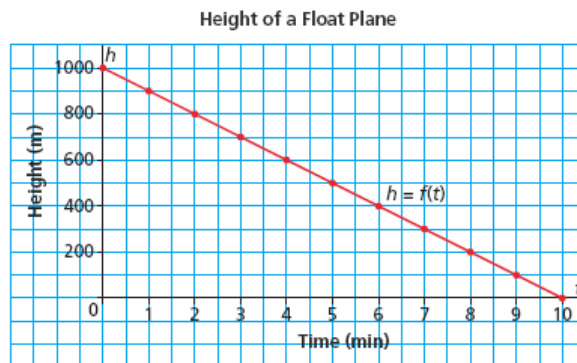
Float planes fly into remote lakes in Canada's Northern wilderness areas for ecotourism. This graph shows the height of a float plane above a lake as the plane descends to land.

Where does the graph intersect the vertical axis?

What does this point represent?

Where does the graph intersect the horizontal axis? What does this point represent?

What is the rate of change for this graph? What does it represent?



TRY THIS

Work in a group.

You will need grid paper.

Dogsled tours are run between Armstrong cabin and Irving cabin.

The cabins are 100 km apart.

Dogsled team 1 travels at an average speed of 20 km/h and starts its tour at Armstrong cabin.

Dogsled team 2 travels at an average speed of 25 km/h and starts its tour at Irving cabin.

One pair of students chooses team 1 and the other pair chooses team 2.

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TRY THIS (continued)

- A. Copy and complete the table to show the distance from Irving cabin at different times on the tour.

Team 1

Time (h)	Distance from Irving Cabin (km)
0	100
1	

Team 2

Time (h)	Distance from Irving Cabin (km)
0	0
1	

- B. Draw a graph to show the distance from Irving cabin as a function of time.

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TRY THIS (continued)

C. Share your results with the other pair of students.

- How are the graphs the same? How are they different?
- Identify where each graph intersects the vertical and horizontal axes. What do these points represent?
- Determine the rate of change for each graph. What does it represent?
- What are the domain and range for each graph?

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Complete the table to show the distance from Irving cabin at different times on the tour.

Team 1

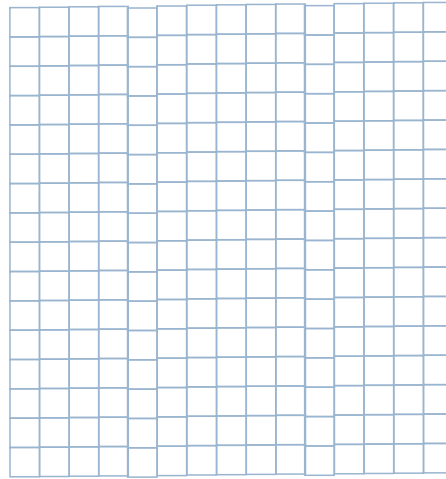
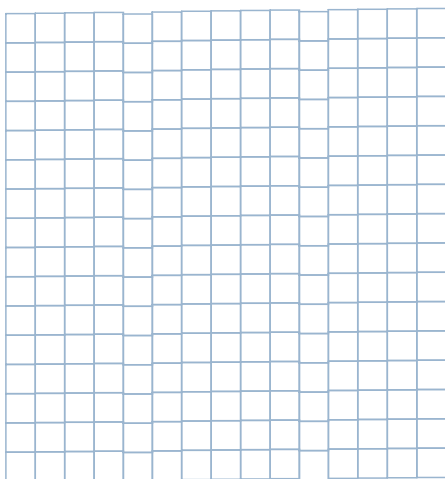
Time (h)	Distance from Irving Cabin (km)
0	100
1	

Team 2

Time (h)	Distance from Irving Cabin (km)
0	0
1	

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Draw a graph to show the distance from Irving cabin as a function of time.



How are the graphs the same? How are they different?

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Identify where each graph intersects the vertical and horizontal axes.
What do these points represent?

Determine the rate of change for each graph. What does it represent?

What are the domain and range for each graph?

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Section 5.7

Any graph of a line that is not vertical represents a function. We call these functions linear functions.

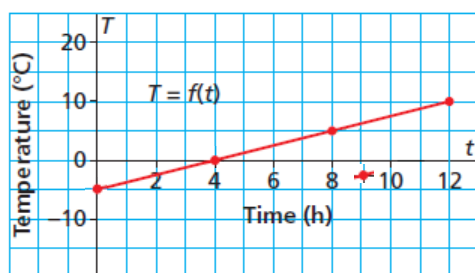
Why are vertical lines not considered to be "functions"?

Intercepts:

1. Where the line crosses the horizontal axis is called the horizontal intercept (also known as the x-intercept). What will be the value of y for any horizontal intercept? $y=0$
2. Where the line crosses the vertical axis is called the vertical intercept (y-intercept). The value of x will be? $x=0$

This graph shows the temperature, T degrees Celsius, as a function of time, t hours, for two locations.

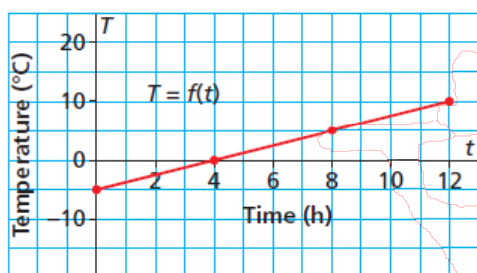
Temperature in Location A



The point where the graph intersects the horizontal axis has coordinates ?
The horizontal intercept is ? This point of intersection represents the time, after ? when the temperature is ?

The point where the graph intersects the vertical axis has coordinates ?
The vertical intercept is ? This point of intersection represents the initial temperature, ?

Temperature in Location A



The domain is: ?

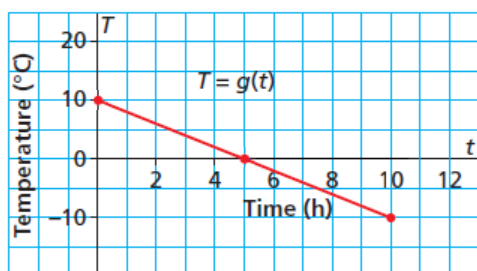
The range is: ?

The rate of change is: $\frac{\text{change in } T}{\text{change in } t} = \frac{?}{?} = ?$

The rate of change is positive because the temperature is increasing over time.

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Temperature in Location B



The point where the graph intersects the horizontal axis has coordinates ?

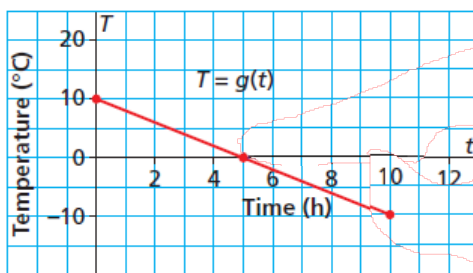
The horizontal intercept is ? This point of intersection represents the time, after ? when the temperature is ?

The point where the graph intersects the vertical axis has coordinates ?

The vertical intercept is ? This point of intersection represents the initial temperature, ?

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Temperature in Location B



The domain is: ?

The range is: ?

The rate of change is: $\frac{\text{change in } T}{\text{change in } t} = \frac{?}{?}$
 $= ?$

The rate of change is negative because the temperature is decreasing over time.

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Example 1

Determining Intercepts, Domain, and Range of the Graph of a Linear Function

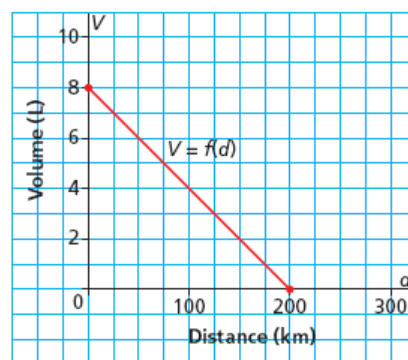
This graph shows the fuel consumption of a scooter with a full tank of gas at the beginning of a journey.

- Write the coordinates of the points where the graph intersects the axes. Determine the vertical and horizontal intercepts. Describe what the points of intersection represent.
- What are the domain and range of this function?



SOLUTION

Volume of Gas in a Scooter

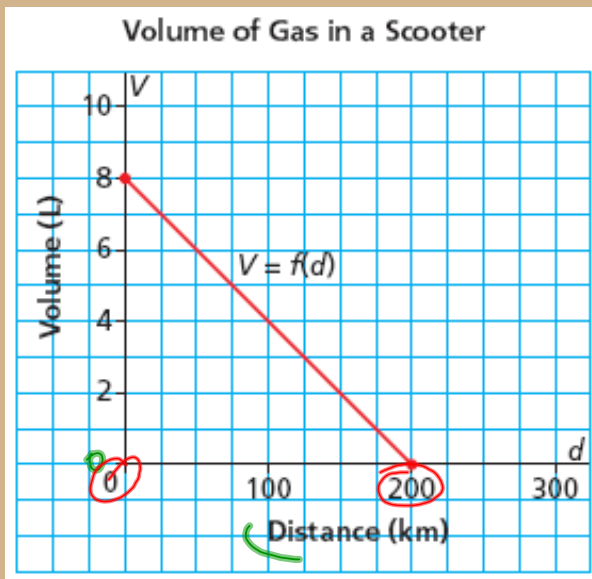


CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING



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Practise Question



#1 What are the intercepts and what do they mean?

x-intercept is 200
 → At 200 km, the volume of gas is 0 L.

y-intercept is 8
 → At 8 L, the distance travelled is 0 km.

#2 What is the domain and range?

Domain is $0 \leq x \leq 200$
 (x-values)

Range is $0 \leq y \leq 8$
 (y)

Practice Question: Please fully answer the following:

1. This graph shows how the height of a burning candle changes with time.

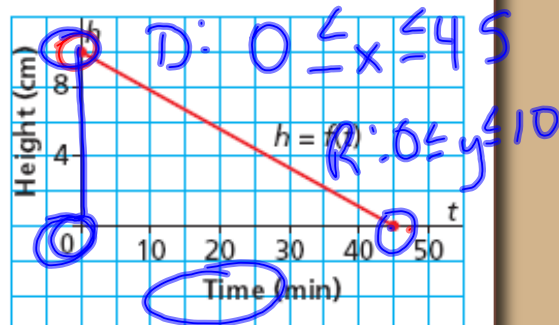
a) Write the coordinates of the points where the graph intersects the axes.

Determine the vertical and horizontal intercepts.

Describe what the points of intersection represent.

b) What are the domain and range of this function?

Height of a Burning Candle



y-int. is 10. At 10cm, the time is 0
 x-int is 45. At 45min, the height is 0